



# Congress of the United States of America

## House of Representatives

Vernon J. Ehlers

June 5, 2009

Michigan

President Barack H. Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005

Dear President Obama:

We are all very disappointed that the state of the auto industry has reached this crisis situation, and I thank you for your work toward the goal of returning Chrysler and General Motors (GM) to viability. I certainly realize that this is not an easy task since there are many intertwined and complicated issues involved, and I would like to draw your attention to four major concerns facing my congressional district and Michigan.

First, West Michigan is home to many auto parts suppliers and manufacturers of tool and die equipment. I continue to hear concerns from many of these companies about the viability of the auto industry, fears of bankruptcy being used to avoid paying past bills, and greater unemployment as GM and Chrysler have entered bankruptcy.

It is imperative that the auto parts suppliers and tool and die manufacturers receive the obligations which are due to them from the auto companies. If suppliers and tool and die manufacturers are not paid rapidly, we may soon find a chain reaction of bankruptcies. Michigan workers already are suffering from the highest unemployment in the nation, and I fear more unemployment would result if auto companies do not meet their obligations to their suppliers.

Second, I am also concerned with the closure of many auto dealerships. I certainly hope that Chrysler and GM will not use bankruptcy as an excuse to thwart any financial obligation still due to the dealers.

Third, with the billions of taxpayer dollars at risk, many of my constituents are extremely concerned about government involvement in GM. I urge you to work diligently to remove the federal government, and ultimately our taxpaying citizens, from ownership of GM as expediently as possible. Also, I encourage you to instruct the Auto Task Force to be transparent in how it proceeds, and also provide details to Congress and the American public about the plan to return GM to viability.



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Finally, I am very concerned about workers who have been displaced from their auto industry jobs and retirees who are facing changes to their anticipated benefits. Earlier this week, I joined the entire Michigan Delegation in sending a letter to Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis in support of the State of Michigan's request for three National Emergency Grants for worker training in the Grand Rapids, Flint and Southeast Michigan areas. It is absolutely essential that we equip Michigan workers with the skills needed to transition to new jobs as we work intensely to encourage innovation and job growth.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns and requests. I look forward to working with you to ensure the viability of the auto companies, auto suppliers, tool and die manufacturers and the auto dealers and to assist Michigan workers and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Vernon J. Ehlers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Vernon J. Ehlers

Member of Congress

VJE: rf